



WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Maine value their health and that of their families and fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, almost 21 percent of children and adolescents aged 9-17 in the United States have a mental health disorder; nearly 11 percent suffer from a major mental illness that results in significantly impaired behavior at home, at school and among peers; 5 percent have extreme functional impairment with their illness; and

WHEREAS, nearly 21,000 Maine children and youth and their families receive publicly funded mental health services provided by the Department of Health & Human Services, Children's Behavioral Health Services; and

WHEREAS, it is important that children and adolescents, along with their families and communities, learn about the warning signs of mental health disorders and where to obtain necessary assistance and treatment; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis and appropriate treatment of mental health disorders among children provide them better opportunities to lead full and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, the participation of family members in the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents is integral to positive clinical outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Children's Mental Health Awareness Day was originally developed nationally by families of youth with emotional, behavioral and social challenges to focus on the needs of their children and families; and

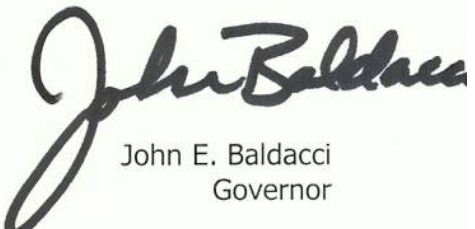
WHEREAS, in celebrating this day, it is fitting to increase public awareness among all Mainer's of this important issue and diminish stigma,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim May 8, 2006 as


CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

In testimony whereof, I have caused
the Great Seal of the State to be
hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand
at Augusta this twenty-sixth day of April
Two Thousand and Six.


John E. Baldacci
Governor




Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY